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Letter dated 24 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to forward, attached hereto, the statement of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Bamir Topi, President of the Republic of Albania, in his statement at the general debate on 24 September 2008 (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Pavle **Jevremović**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The President of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Bamir Topi, said in his statement in the General Debate on 24 September 2008 that "... an independent and democratic Kosovo ... presents the example of the most successful investment made by the international community towards the implementation of the Rule of Law, to long-term stability, peace and development in the Balkans and beyond".

Nothing could be further from the truth. The attempt to create an independent Kosovo out of a province of Serbia, against its will, coupled with the ethnic cleansing of Serbs and other ethnic groups from Kosovo, is a grave violation of international law and the basic principles on which the United Nations is founded.

Furthermore, instead of providing for long-term stability, peace and development in the Balkans and beyond, the attempted independence of Kosovo is just an introduction into a long period of instability in the Balkans. Those who engineered the attempted independence of Kosovo should know that catering to the aspirations of the most potent nationalism on European soil, the Albanian one, will only create future problems for other countries, replicating in one or the other way cases of Kosovo in them. As indicated in the statement of the President of the Republic of Albania today, Albania will continue to feed and support the irredentist aspirations of ethnic Albanians in other countries. Kosovo is but an initial case.

Finally, if the precedent of creating a new State on the basis of a unilateral declaration of independence, against the will of a country to which this territory belongs is established, it will serve as a blueprint for a number of such attempts in the future. All over the globe. This would be a true effect of the words "and beyond" in the statement of the President of the Republic of Albania.